



## A New Darkness

*Joseph Delaney*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online ➔](#)

# A New Darkness

*Joseph Delaney*

## A New Darkness Joseph Delaney

A chilling new trilogy from the author of the internationally bestselling The Last Apprentice series! Tom Ward is an apprentice no longer—now he is a fully fledged spook battling boggarts, witches, and other creatures of the dark. This three-book arc will introduce brand-new readers to Joseph Delaney's haunting world, and delight longtime fans.

Tom Ward is the spook, the one person who can defend the county from ghosts, ghasts, boggarts, witches, and other bloodthirsty creatures of the dark. But he's only seventeen, and his apprenticeship was cut short when his master died in battle. No one trusts Tom's skill, not till he's proven himself. And a fifteen-year-old girl named Jenny knows more about the three mysterious deaths in the county than Tom does. She is a seventh daughter of a seventh daughter and she wants to be Tom's first apprentice—even though a female spook is unheard of. Together, Tom and Jenny will uncover the grave danger heading straight toward the county, and they'll team up with a witch assassin to confront it.

A New Darkness begins a three-book series that will introduce new readers to Joseph Delaney's deliciously scary imagination and delight his longtime fans. A New Darkness is perfect for every reader who loves thrills, chills, action, and adventure—no prior knowledge of the Last Apprentice series necessary!

The Last Apprentice series, the first internationally bestselling series about Tom Ward, is soon to be a major motion picture, *Seventh Son*, starring Jeff Bridges, Ben Barnes, Alicia Vikander, Kit Harington, Olivia Williams, Antje Traue, Djimon Hounsou, and Julianne Moore as Mother Malkin.

## A New Darkness Details

Date : Published September 2nd 2014 by Greenwillow Books (first published June 5th 2014)

ISBN :

Author : Joseph Delaney

Format : Kindle Edition 416 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Fiction, Adventure, Horror

 [Download A New Darkness ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online A New Darkness ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online A New Darkness Joseph Delaney**

## From Reader Review A New Darkness for online ebook

### Marilyn says

Not as good as the Last Apprentice series, but if you miss the County and Tom Ward and reading about being a Spook, you may want to continue on with this new series.

---

### Dan says

This is the first of a new series for Tom Ward which follows on from The Spook's Revenge (beware, this review has spoilers for that book) . I was a little skeptical that Delaney was just publishing more books because he could and *Revenge* felt worryingly like that was what was happening. Thankfully though I thought this was the best Spook's book so far.

So Tom Ward is no longer an apprentice and has taken over from John Gregory to protect the County from the dark. His tenor as Spook has been fairly easy so far, with the dark quieter than ever. But when young girls are being killed it is his duty to face whatever terrible creature is behind it. He soon realises that this is only the beginning and a huge army is approaching...

Introduced here is Jenny, a fifteen year-old seventh daughter of a seventh daughter who becomes Tom Ward's first apprentice. She's an intriguing character- although there are strong female characters in the series, this is the first time we've seen one who has no link to the dark. She makes a different apprentice than Tom does, a more questioning one and for short periods of the book the narration comes from her so she is an important part of this new trilogy.

I think what I liked best about this book is that it told the story of a major threat but also had some traditional Spook's work in it, something which was lacking in many of the later books of The Wardstone Chronicles. Delaney's world is excellent and it is always great when he properly shows it to us.

Things really go bonkers towards the end of this book and it feels darker than the series has really gone before. There's also a massive twist at the end which I didn't see coming and I think long-term readers of the series will also be surprised by it.

The book is both a continuation of Tom Ward's story and the beginning of something new and it is really rather good. Quite where the next two books in the trilogy are going to go I haven't the faintest! A must-read for fans of the Spook's books which brings us more drama than ever!

---

### Harry Zapata says

WARNING, THIS REVIEW DOES NOT REVEAL ANY SPOILERS ALTHOUGH IT HINTS AT THINGS AND IF YOU HAVEN'T READ THE BOOK THE PLEASE DO NOT READ UNLESS YOU DON'T MIND TEASERS..... I think this made the " the spooks revenge better as it opened bits that we felt

weren't happy with like the betrayal of a certain someone which is also shown in tom's new anger, I also like the fact that it shows a lot of remembering to someone who dies in the last book a bit hastily. Now about the new book I think it is really good and brought the standard up more, yes the fighting was quick and it felt over quickly but it all comes down to that gut retching twist and cliff hanger. I for one will be pleased by the fact that it was a cliff hanger if a certain someone comes back in the next or I shall be bitterly disappointed, however I would continue either way.

I also feel that they have to come back especially after you now who was spying and maybe jealous of jenny or tom (if you have read the book then you'll know which of the two).

It was a great book and I'm hoping it doesn't conclude in three books and hope that he takes more time in writing the books to make an ending which will blow our minds.

P.S. As for anyone who says this is a spin-off then shame on you....

---

### **Skip says**

This book was a vast improvement over the last book in the Last Apprentice series. Tom Ward is now the Spook of Chipenden since his mentor John Gregory's demise, and is generally thought to be young and inexperienced. In reality, he is depressed and lonely. A girl named Jenny comes and wants to be his apprentice. Tom eventually capitulates when she is by a Kobalan mage, and he sees evidence of her gifts as the seventh daughter of a seventh daughter. Jenny, Tom, and the witch assassin, Grimalkin, head north to gather intelligence about the growing Kobalan menace. Tom is railroaded into a fight to the death duel with a Kobalan champion, and the unthinkable happens. Please hurry along with the next book.

---

### **Jonathan Terrington says**

*A New Darkness* is the continuation of the *Spook's Apprentice* series of books (*The Wardstone Chronicles*). It marks the beginning of a new trilogy, following the rise of a new enemy - the Kobalos - and their god.

The book itself is full of the wonder that Delaney has delivered in the past, however I am starting to gain a sense of 'diminishing return' from this Spook's world. This book, of all his books, felt more rushed and a little patchier in places - I was tempted to give it three stars for this reason, but allowed myself to consider that the story itself worked out okay. It added in a new mystery and a female apprentice character - in fact female characters played a dominant role in this book, which is something I always like.

If you were a fan of the old *Spook's* books, then you'll find what you are looking for in this. If not...well, I doubt you will find anything that is new or out of the ordinary.

---

### **Jennifer says**

Delaney continues the tales of Tom Ward in this new series in which Tom is now the Spook and no longer the apprentice. It's interesting to see him in this new role and I like that Grimalkin has a large role in the story, but there are a few things I wasn't crazy about. This is the first book where I feel that Delaney has ended on a true cliffhanger. I would have preferred a tidier ending. Also, the woodcuts that have always

lended the books a delightfully creepy feeling are gone. I'm missing those a bit too.

---

### **Weronika ★ says**

3.5/5 stars

I really don't know what to think about this book. It wasn't bad but I was expecting something else. I love so much *The Wardstone Chronicles* and I hoped I would like *The Starblade Chronicles* too. Unfortunately I'm very disappointed. Of course I still like Tom and his story but the plot was a big mess and I didn't like Jenny.

I don't know, maybe I'm too old for this series or maybe I'm still angry at Joseph for what he did in the end of *The Spook's Revenge*. I hope the next part will be better.

P.S: Where the hell is my Alice?

---

### **Eden says**

Tom Ward is the new Spook of Chipenden. His apprenticeship was cut short, but he's trained enough to continue on as a Spook for the County. And things have been relatively quiet as of late. Until girls start dying.

Then Tom meets Jenny who says she knows what is killing the girls and can show him. But she will only show him if Tom will take her on as his apprentice.

I was sad with the end of *The Last Apprentice* series. It is one of my all time favorite series and I have grown so attached to the characters. The final book was amazing as always, but sad.

I was excited to learn there would be a continuation of the series with Tom Ward. I missed John Gregory and teared up a little each time he was mentioned.

But, there is a new character in this book named Jenny. She's 15, a seventh daughter of a seventh daughter, and wants to become Tom's apprentice. I like Jenny and I like that she was introduced. I think a female spook is definitely interesting. Joseph Delaney writes strong female characters, which is only one of the reasons I love *The Last Apprentice* and now this new series.

As for this book, I liked it just as much as the books in *The Last Apprentice* series. It has that same feel from when I read *The Last Apprentice* books, but it has something new, too. Things have changed a little and that is felt. But I think that's normal. The story in *The Last Apprentice* series is finished. Some of the characters are gone and while this new series still follows Tom Ward, there is a new story. They no longer have to worry about the Fiend, but something else.

I thought this book was great and I was happy to be back in the County. But, this one is sad too. And wow, what a cliffhanger! I hope it won't be too long before the next book comes out. I really want to know what happens next.

---

**Julie says**

Great start to the new series. Love the new character and great to see some old faces again, especially our favourite witch assassin. Shocker of an ending though!

---

**Kadl Wayan says**

I NEED that book RIGHT NOW!!Really want to know how the story continues...give it to me joseph delaney!!!!!!o.O

---

**Nayeomi says**

What the heck, MAJOR CLIFFHANGER! Arrggghhh!!!!

But, truly happy and excited that Delaney's groove is baaack. This book is action packed, the characters retain their full on kickass mojo and i love how there are so many new villains and also new allies that come together to make this new series quite sumptuous. Get ready, Spook's Library!

Although i am still royally PISSED about Alice, i believe that yeah, it was inevitable but let's see how things will turn in the next few books. Delaney is definitely an UNPREDICTABLE writer in such a way that he messes with your head on who's in alliance with who so it may turn out that either girls will turn on him but definitely ONE of them will be the BANE of his existence, unless he doesn't come off his Harry Dresden-ish stunt...which i highly doubt!

Grimalkin's character in this book is superb! i love that Delaney has taken time to really show the many aspects of Grimalkin's personality. She is a formidable witch assassin, but she is also many things, including thirsty for knowledge and though this is dangerous, eventually it will help her allies in defeating the new enemy, which is more terrifying than the FIEND (because this time, the enemy is a chauvinistic demon god, yech). Also Grimalkin has always been a leader and cunning strategist but this does not mean she doesn't value her friends including Tom Ward.

All in all, i am quite delighted with the new series and even though the final Spook's Apprentice felt like it was written by someone else, this book was definitely a great one and that Delaney has put in quite a lot of ingenuity while displaying the character charms of the book.

I can't wait what's going to happen in the next book!!!!

---

**Edel says**

This is book 1 in a new series called The Starblade Chronicles. This book carries on a storyline that began

with the Spooks Apprentice series and now there is a new spook in town , Tom Ward , the seventh son of a seventh son who's job it is to protect the county from evil that lurks there from time to time since the previous beloved Spook is now dead. Along with Tom is an unexpected apprentice of his own and an unexpected friend from the past , together they face a battle of immense danger . What a cliff hanger Joseph Delaney has left us with . I was reading the end of this book anxiously clasping my kindle . This was an excellent start to a new series ... What awaits us next??? I don't know but I can't wait!

---

**Jessica ☺⇒ Silverbow ⇒ ☺ Rabid Reads-no-more says**

**9/30/17 - ON SALE for \$1.99:**

<http://amzn.to/2eVPtYd>

**Reviewed by: Rabid Reads**

When I saw this book available for review, I leapt at it. I've been meaning to start Delaney's The Last Apprentice series forever, but was, once again, daunted by the number of installments (13, not including the various bonus stories).

In A NEW DARKNESS, I thought I'd found the perfect solution—I'd get to see what all the Delaney fuss was about without having to commit to another long-running series.

I was so very, very wrong.

I know I don't pay enough attention to blurbs. It's a problem, and I own it. But this time . . . this time, I'm almost positive that I did read it, b/c I specifically didn't want to request A NEW DARKNESS if it was a continuation of the previous series (b/c OCD).

Whatever. The current, just-before-publication blurb, clearly states that it is, in fact, a continuation, but that no prior knowledge is necessary to read and understand this book. And maybe that's true . . . I'm not sure if what I was feeling while I was reading this was confusion or frustration, b/c whether I needed to have read The Last Apprentice was kind of irrelevant to me . . . b/c I wanted to have read it.

Half of the book was throwbacks/mentions/this-one-times from the other series, and while we were given enough information for it to make sense, it was painfully obvious that there was more going on that was flying right over our heads.

I don't like feeling ignorant. I would even go so far as to say that I HATE feeling ignorant.

I felt ignorant the entire time I was reading this book.

So that was a problem. Another problem was that I felt like I was reading an historical accounting of the events in the book . . . but in real-time? Which was strange . . . but the feeling made more sense when right before the first POV change, a point was made by the character that they were writing everything down in a journal.

But while, in theory, reading someone's journal may sound highly entertaining and full of juicy tidbits, in reality . . . unless you know the person incredibly well (your sister, your girlfriend, etc.) . . . it's really not.

As for the characters, not only did I feel like I didn't know them very well, but I didn't particularly like them either. I'm guessing that Tom Ward is the last apprentice, and Grimalkin seems like an immensely interesting character, but yeah . . . in this one book . . . not enough development to make a lasting impression. And without context, Grimalkin just comes across as the scheming, manipulative witch that Jenny fears she is. Jenny . . . I initially liked her, but as the story progressed, she became more and more judgmental, and more and more surly. She badgered Tom into taking her on as his apprentice, but then she does nothing but second guess him, and complain about his instruction.

And the new enemy . . . this is a personal peeve of mine, so it probably won't bother you unless you share my peeve, but I've never been a big fan of humanized animals as characters.

And it probably has something to do with going to see *Guardians of the Galaxy* a couple of weeks ago, but when this "new darkness" was on the page, all I could see in my head was an evil version of Rocket. I think the Kobalos are supposed to be more wolf or fox-like, but yeah . . . Rocket. \*shrugs\* Even if I could force myself to see beyond that, I'd still be seeing something pretty awful:

Any WoW players out there? Say hello to your friendly neighborhood kobold. \*shudders\*

And don't even get me started on that cliffhanger. I wasn't even that invested in the story, and I wanted to throttle someone.

So yeah . . . if you're a longtime fan of the series, I'm sure *A NEW DARKNESS* is an excellent addition to your well-loved world. But if you're thinking of using this book to take the easy road to exploring the widespread fascination with Joseph Delaney . . . you might want to think again.

Pre-review:

Dat ending. RTC.

---

### **Richie Chagas says**

*"I remembered how a dark mage had once conjured up in my mind a vision of a possible future. I'd walked up to my bedroom, and there it was on the wall, where all the apprentices, including me, had scrawled their names, was a new addition: JENNY. It suggested a girl apprentice had once been based there. It seemed very odd-as far as I knew, there had never been any female spook's apprentices.*

Joseph Delaney has a gorgeous writing and a gripping plot.

*A New Darkness* begins a little while after the last *Wardstone Chronicles* book, Thomas Ward is now the Chipenden's spook and he's handling the job pretty well for his young age. But when a girl named Jenny shows up wanting to be his apprentice the calmness that had settled since the death of his master is over. The

threat of the the strange and powerful creatures named Kobalos is imminent and Thomas is considering helping his ally the witch assassin Grimalkin for she has made her mission to destroy the Kobalos.

---

## AH says

*Initial Thoughts:* This was a really fun book to read and I was not aware that this is a spinoff from the author's Spooks series. (By the way, there is a movie coming out in January 2015, so read them now, the movie looks like an action packed adventure!) Anyhow, back to the book - I had no idea what to expect and I was pleasantly surprised. Tom is the seventh son of a seventh son and because of this, he has some abilities. He is now the Chippenden spook and he is on his own. He guards his country against ghosts, ghouls, boggarts, witches, and other things that go bump in the night. The story is told from two points of view - Tom and his apprentice Jenny. The story is captivating and I almost read it in one sitting. It's a lot of fun and should appeal to young adult readers and up.

### *The Review:*

I'm always on the lookout for books that would appeal to that male reluctant reader. I find that when I get excited about a book, there is a very big chance that my youngest who is now 15 may actually pick up that book and read it. **A New Darkness** by Joseph Delaney should appeal to those kinds of readers, especially those that enjoy spooky ghost stories.

**A New Darkness** focuses on Tom Ward, the Chippenden Spook and a seventh son of a seventh son. Tom deals with all sorts of things that go bump in the night. He even has a servant that would just as easily eat you if you disturb its routine. Tom is awfully busy and he takes on Jenny as his apprentice - a first since no other girl has ever been a Spook prior to this. Together they fight some very scary (and deadly) creatures.

The story is told from both Tom and Jenny's point of view so we really get to be inside their heads and learn each character's motivations. I enjoyed the story telling style and I had a lot of fun reading this book.

Tom is confident in his abilities but he is quite modest. I found that he seemed much more mature than his 17 years. Tom takes the time to research and learn about his opponents - a good life preservation skill. Jenny is quite independent. She has some useful gifts - influence, empathy, among others and she wants to make a good impression. The two are well suited for each other.

Warning! This book does have a bit of a cliffhanger ending. I really can't wait for the next installment in the series. **A New Darkness** is a solid start to *The Starblade Chronicles*.

---

*Thank you to Edelweiss and Harper Collins for a review copy of this book.*

---